

# Te Kakara

Moroki  
Housing Project

He Rā  
Whatiwhati Kō

He Māhuri  
Raukawa



Te Ara ki Te Reo Ūkaipō:  
The Path to Language  
Resurgence



# RST Chair Message

*Kei te hunga pūkoko ki ngā kai ā te iwi,  
tēnā koutou katoa.*

Welcome to the summer edition of Te Kakara, our iwi pānui filled with stories that celebrate the success and achievements of our iwi. This edition covers a range of topics that capture the complexity and diversity of all that we do and are involved with.

This quarter's edition includes details on the journey of Papa o Te Aroha Marae, which has been closed for several years and is about to be renovated with a view to re-open the marae in the months ahead.

Also covered is a story on Rina Lawson, a dedicated trustee for over 13 years, who shows in her actions and commitment to her marae and our iwi the essence of service. I want to acknowledge her unwavering commitment to mahinga kai initiatives and cultural restoration projects over the many years.

He Rā Whatiwhati Kō is a project dedicated to empowering kaitiaki for our natural environment. It showcases our freshwater monitoring tool, Te Ārohirohi and emphasises our continued commitment to our taiao and our takiwā.

Our leadership programme, He Māhuri Raukawa, continues to nurture emerging leaders within our organisation, not only does it help us to prepare for succession planning, but it equips our emerging leaders with the skills necessary to manifest our collective iwi vision.

On another note, I am extremely proud of the recent Moroki housing project that was opened in October this year. Moroki is a 50-unit development in Glen Innes, and marks a significant stride forward in

providing long-term market and discounted rental opportunities prioritised for iwi members. This kaupapa is an example of the power of iwi collective investment which can truly bring about wonderful outcomes for our people.

We also addressed the critical issue of the invasive freshwater Gold Clam, standing unwavering against its presence in our waters, emphasising our commitment to safeguarding our environment, culture, and heritage.

This edition of Te Kakara includes a range of stories on the important mahi and focus for our kaimahi, and iwi members, I hope you can find the time over the summer break to take it all in.

I would like to take this time to thank you all for your support and to wish everyone an enjoyable whānau-filled summer and festive season.

Kia mau, kia ora, tēnā koutou katoa.

**Nā Kataraina Hodge**

*Raukawa Settlement Trust Chairperson*

# Year in Review

*We have had another busy year as an iwi organisation, out and about within our community and serving our people. 2023 has many highlights, celebrations, kaupapa and progress, all aligning with Raukawa Kia Mau, Kia Ora.*



Pōhara Marae, Pukeatua

## Te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa

January

Te Whare Kōrero o Raukawa was held from January 23–27 at Pōhara Marae. We had an amazing turn out from our people, iwi and community who came together to learn about our culture, reo and tikanga. We sang beautiful waiata and the marae was filled with lots of laughter and kōrero.

## Te Mauri o Waihou project

February

Construction began on the viewing platform at Tūheihei (Blue Springs, Putāruru) in February. Kaumātua blessed the site to kick-off the project, funded by the South Waikato District Council. The aim of the project is to enhance the physical infrastructure along our awa tūpuna.



Tūheihei, Putāruru



Papa o Te Aroha Marae, Tokoroa

## Papa o te Aroha Marae

March

It was announced that the well-known Tokoroa community marae, Papa o te Aroha Marae, had been gifted to Raukawa by the Tokoroa Māori Catholic Society. Raukawa continue to explore funding options to ensure it can be self-sustainable and available to the community in the future.

## Te Kura Reo o Raukawa

April

Te Kura Reo o Raukawa was held at Parawera Marae, where whānau participated in various activities such as waiata, kōrero, and whakawhanaungatanga. The week is more than an event – it is a movement towards revitalising te reo Māori and our tuakiritanga.



Parawera Marae, Parawera



Ngātira Marae, Ngātira

## Ngātira Solar Panels installed

April

Ngātira Marae had a vision and determination to work towards being a self-sustainable pā. With the help of many hands, including funding from Hīkina Whakatutuki (MBIE), they were able to install solar panels on their papakāinga. Shout out to contractors Harrison's Solar from Te Awamutu who installed the solar panels for our uri.

## Te Tātāwhāinga Kaumātua o Raukawa

April

Over 250 kaumātua from around the takiwā gathered at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre for a day of fun activities and challenges. The games are a wonderful occasion for our kaumātua to come together and connect, a rare opportunity outside of whānau gatherings and iwi kaupapa.



South Waikato Sport and Events Centre, Tokoroa



Te Whare o Raukawa, Tokoroa

## Sāmoan Language Week

May–June

We celebrated Sāmoan Language Week with daily activities, games and learning of the Sāmoan culture. We shared ava in our opening ceremony and learned a Sāmoan karakia and pese before seeing the week out with a feast of delicious Sāmoan dishes. Fa'afetai lava everyone who helped make the week a success!



Parliament Offices, Wellington

## Ministerial Forum

June

Raukawa chairperson, kaimahi, kaumātua, trustees and advisors met with a rōpū of Ministers and government officials in Wellington for the annual Ministerial Forum. The forum is an important event where we discuss relevant kaupapa and concerns with the Crown, share our successes over the last year as we continue to champion our 2030 vision.

## New Branding Unveiled

June

We unveiled our new Raukawa brand “look and feel” around Matariki this year. Inspired by our unique carving style that adorns many of our whare, the key colours, mā, pango and kokowai reflect our world with our brand etched deeply in our whenua, awa and maunga throughout our takiwā.



Te Whare o Raukawa, Tokoroa



Kawenata Signing at Te Whare o Raukawa, Tokoroa

## Tatauranga Aotearoa (Statistics NZ)

August

Tatauranga Aotearoa (Stats NZ) and Raukawa marked a milestone, celebrating the signing of a Kawenata (Relationship Agreement). This relationship aims to create the foundation for the priorities of Raukawa being realised through the support and development of iwi data capability.

## The Moroki Project

September

The Moroki housing complex in Glen Innes, Tāmaki Makaurau officially opened. Raukawa Iwi Development Limited (RIDL), our commercial and investment company, is a key investor in the 50-unit development through the collective iwi property fund, Hāpai. The units will provide a range of long-term market and discounted rental opportunities with certain units prioritised for iwi members.



Opening of Moroki, Glen Innes, Auckland



# Papa o te Aroha Marae

## *A Beacon of Renewal and Community Growth*



In the heart of Tokoroa, Papa o te Aroha Marae stands as a testament to the rich cultural heritage of its community. Recently, this marae witnessed a transition of ownership from the Māori Catholic Society to Raukawa, bringing a new opportunity for renewal, sustainability and future growth. Leading this restoration journey is Ngawati Smiler.

Ngawati is the Aka Tauwhiro Group Manager here at Raukawa, and is tasked with overseeing the marae's redevelopment project, a role he describes as *"a privilege to work on such an awesome taonga."* Ngawati says, *"Our aim is to breathe new life into Papa o te Aroha Marae, ensuring it remains a place of significance."*

The transfer of ownership was a special moment for Raukawa, signifying the community's commitment to preserving their heritage. Ngawati highlights that the marae's restoration is in perfect alignment with the iwi's values and aspirations. *"We aim to honour the previous custodians of the whare along with providing further opportunities for our community and iwi."*

Since taking stewardship last year, significant milestones have been achieved, including the replacement and repair of the roofs of all the whare. The cleaning and repairing of the whakairo has commenced along with plans to install fire sprinklers throughout the complex.

Partnership and collaboration has played a vital role in turning this vision into a reality. We appreciate the financial support from Trust Waikato which has allowed us to commence this mahi. As further funding becomes available, we will be able to renovate other areas of the Marae, which include re-carpeting the wharenuī, renovations and equipment replacement in the wharekai and an upgrade of the wharepaku area.



During this time there has been immense support from the local community who are eager to help however they can with the restoration project. Local businesses and organisations have joined hands with Raukawa, providing both financial, logistical and volunteer support. Ngawati acknowledges these alliances, emphasising the unity and strength they bring to the project.

He reiterates that, *"This marae is not just a building; it's a reflection of community and identity, it reflects our commitment to preserving and celebrating our Māoritanga. It is a space where stories will be told, and futures will be shaped."*

Once the marae restoration has been completed, the community can look forward to a range of activities and events that celebrate their unique culture and strengthen their bonds. Papa o te Aroha Marae is poised to once again become a beacon for its local community.



# Te Rau Aroha

*Unlock the Hidden Kōrero within our Treasures*

Huia Kaimanawa is our Raukawa taonga room located at Te Whare o Raukawa, Tokoroa. Our pātaka of treasures is an ongoing labour of love. Here at Raukawa it is our responsibility to protect, maintain and preserve the integrity of a wide range of taonga that are currently in our care.

Since the late 1980s, a collection of taonga has been collated that reflects moments of time and memories of a bygone era. These taonga include artefacts, archaeological finds, contemporary taonga, gifts, awards, trophies, healing stones, archives, photos, maps, research publications and much more.

Huia Kaimanawa provides a place for our people to come and see, touch and learn about the many taonga we look after. We have artefacts that are carbon-dated to the 1500s, from elaborate pieces to common everyday tools and implements.

As kaitiaki, we are both recognised and certified by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage to hold and care for artefacts. We have over 200 hundred taonga on display, each taonga has a story to tell and we look forward to sharing those stories with you.

To view our taonga collection, call into our main office in Tokoroa, or for small group tours, make an advanced booking for a curated tour with our iwi historian Phyllis Tahere. Please contact us on 0800 RAUKAWA or email [info@raukawa.org.nz](mailto:info@raukawa.org.nz)



# Trustee, Rina Lawson

*A Privilege To Serve Raukawa*



Rina Lawson is one of the longest-serving trustees at Raukawa. She is proud to be from Mangakāretu Marae and has always considered her role as a trustee to be a privilege.

After 13 years, Rina still loves every moment as a trustee. If you are not enjoying it, then what is the point, she says.

She was talked into becoming a trustee a long time ago, from others who were on the board. She said they needed people who were active at their marae and who knew the whakapapa, so she agreed to step up.

*"I have loved my journey as a trustee. It has never felt like a job, but rather an honourable task where I am able to give back to my iwi."*

Over the years, Rina has been involved in many Raukawa projects, including being an active member of the kaitiaki rōpū supporting many marae initiatives delivered by Raukawa, attending celebrations and milestones within the organisation and working hard on behalf of her marae.

A highlight for Rina has been the opportunity of being able to partner with Raukawa and support the mahinga kai programmes, supporting traditional kai restoration processes and contributing to our awa. She said from recollection, these have been going on for 8+ years and since initial commencement, she has also been present to observe three further releases of elver into the Pōkaiwhenua awa. In the coming warmer months, she is looking to work with Raukawa interns for further monitoring of the Pōkaiwhenua elver release programme.

Rina grew up in Putāruru and was born in the Arapuni maternity ward. The eldest of five siblings, her father was Māori and worked in forestry, and her mother was European and a school teacher. Her mother was active in the Methodist Church and as a teacher, she valued having a strong education, teaching many Māori whānau within the community.

Rina got married and started her own family with four children – she kept busy as a māmā and doing administration and secretarial mahi before her husband's passing. She then spent time away from home in Hastings and Tauranga with her second





As our longest-serving trustee, Rina Lawson has been involved in a range of projects and kaupapa here at Raukawa – check out some highlights over the years.

husband, where they kept busy with their employment business in horticulture. They had 11 children between them. She returned to Putāruru in the 2000s after he passed away, to be closer to her whānau.

During the Covid pandemic, Rina said it was an honour to be asked if Mangakāretu Marae would become a vaccination centre for the community.

*“It was uplifting to know that we had the facility and space to be able to provide a safe and comfortable setting for all of our community – not just Māori. The location of it, too, saw people come from not just Putāruru, but all around.”*

This year, Mangakāretu Marae installed solar panels on the wharekai, which are a welcomed addition. She has noticed the children and mokopuna of whānau who left many years ago for mahi in the big cities are making their way home, eager to learn more about where they come from.

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***“I have loved my journey as a trustee. It has never felt like a job, but rather an honourable task where I am able to give back to my iwi.”***

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She is proud of her own children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who are active at their marae, learning te reo and attending kōhanga and kura kaupapa.

She has mokopuna “here, there and everywhere” that stay with her, visit her and take care of her – just like she takes care of them.

# He Rā Whatiwhati Kō

*Empowering Kaitiaki of our Taiao!*

We're thrilled to share the highlights of He Rā Whatiwhati Kō, a day dedicated to empowering our kaitiaki and showcasing Te Ārohirohi, our innovative freshwater monitoring tool introduced in 2022. This event was all about protecting our precious waterways and nurturing our taiao, our natural environment.

Anaru Begbie, the Group Manager for our environment team, captures the essence of our efforts, explaining, *"This kaupapa is rooted in our unique worldview and aims to foster a thriving and prosperous taiao."*

Participant Quinton Tūnoho shared his insights from the day, emphasising the versatility of this kaupapa. *"Te Ārohirohi is a powerful tool that extends beyond freshwater monitoring; we've successfully used it in our seed collecting process."*

We were honoured to have Oliver McCleod, a mātauranga Māori scientist from the regional council, participate in this event. He acknowledged, *"Te Ārohirohi o Raukawa sets a high standard in freshwater initiatives and showcases the potential of collaboration between councils and iwi."*

But the journey doesn't stop here. This day has ignited a spark among participants, driving them to explore further opportunities and innovations to safeguard our natural environment. The ongoing kaupapa demonstrates our commitment to the taiao and the resilience of our people.

Together, we stand as dedicated kaitiaki, ensuring a sustainable and thriving future for generations to come.

For more information on this kaupapa, check out our video in the QR link below:



Scan the code or visit  
[raukawa.info/herawhatiwhatiko](https://raukawa.info/herawhatiwhatiko)



Te Ārohirohi o Raukawa Phone App



Raukawa kaimahi Martin Miles at the Whakauru Stream



He Rā Whatiwhati Kō at Te Whare o Raukawa

# He Mahuri Raukawa

## *Growing and Supporting Raukawa Emerging Leaders*



Ūkaipō Marae, Te Poi

He Māhuri Raukawa is by Raukawa, for Raukawa, an organisational leadership programme that is committed to building our iwi capacity through the delivery of programmes that grow and support our new and emerging leaders.

Te Tāhuhu Rangapū o Raukawa, Maria Te Kanawa says *"For Raukawa, we have an inherent responsibility to ensure the intergenerational wellbeing of our people."* It is within that context that Raukawa kaimahi and programme designer for He Māhuri Raukawa, Missy Lord grounded the design of the programme asserting, *"Raukawa leadership becomes about service to our people rather than that of ourselves."*

He Māhuri Raukawa aims to prepare emerging leaders to envision, implement and execute strategies that will contribute toward the aspirations of our Raukawa uri. It provides a deeper self-awareness around the responsibilities and obligations kaimahi have to enact our vision – Raukawa, Kia Mau, Kia Ora, A Thriving Raukawa Iwi. It hopes to strengthen and enhance leadership skills that will enable kaimahi to lead and implement initiatives that align with our mission and develop the breadth of applied skills necessary to cultivate high-performance teams.

In June, we welcomed 21 participants into the programme. Between then and November, the group attended four wānanga at our marae across our takiwā. They were immersed in learning and sharing about the traditional and contemporary leaders connected to these local areas. We are committed to ensuring that our leadership remains connected to our people and our whenua.

Our programme facilitators are also Raukawa uri, Marian Ruri (Ruapeka Marae) and Taihako Maui (Mōkai Marae), who both share a passion for educating and empowering Raukawa leadership. They have seen a remarkable difference in the strength of the relationships that kaimahi have formed because of

being on this leadership journey with one another and a collaborative effort by all to see our people thrive and to realise our vision.

The programme is currently targeted at Raukawa kaimahi, but reviews are underway on how we can expand the programme for Trustees and Raukawa whānau to participate in the future.



Pōwhiri for He Mahuri Raukawa



Raukawa kaimahi Haloa Samuelu and Vivian Rikona

# The Power of Collective Iwi Investment



Raukawa delegates at the launch of the Moroki project

The Moroki housing project represents a unique example where commercial investment and social aspirations join together to produce something wonderful, commercially sound and socially transformative. The project shows the power of collective iwi investment and collaboration, with Raukawa playing a pivotal role, showcasing exceptional leadership and commercial acumen.

Moroki, a 50-unit development in Glen Innes, marks a significant stride forward in providing long-term market and discounted rental opportunities prioritised for iwi members. It is strategically located near kura, shopping centres, and scenic reserves, offering a promising opportunity for individuals and whānau. Moroki was officially opened on 19 September, with applications for tenancy currently underway.

Integral to this achievement is Raukawa Iwi Development Limited (RIDL), the investment arm of our iwi organisation. Not only has RIDL grown our own asset base from \$50 million in 2012 to over \$230 million today, but they played a founding role in the establishment of Hāpai, which would go on to support iwi to collectivise their capital, capacity and opportunities in the property sector.

So what exactly is Hāpai? It's a New Zealand property fund entirely owned and controlled by iwi partners and has played a vital role in bringing Moroki to life. Established in 2019 by six iwi, it has grown to include 19 iwi partners with over \$300 million invested. Moroki stands as the first housing project under Hāpai's banner, reflecting their continual commitment to enduring Māori success in the property sector.

Kataraina Hodge, Chairperson of Raukawa Settlement Trust, emphasises that this endeavour aligns strongly with our iwi vision, and goes on to say that it's not just about housing; it's about nurturing lasting connections, wellbeing, and empowerment within the social and commercial sectors.



Moroki apartments, Glen Innes

Jamie Tuuta, Independent Chair of Ka Uruora, highlights multiple key focuses, with financial empowerment being paramount. Ka Uruora has provided several rental rebate opportunities exclusively for iwi members in connection with Moroki, encouraging diverse housing options from affordable rentals to progressive home ownership. Moroki also promotes financial literacy, savings, and budgeting, contributing to a prosperous community.

Moroki stands as a shining example of Raukawa's investment leadership and commercial approach. It represents the strength that emerges when iwi come together for a common goal, and it embodies our commitment to nurturing enduring success within our community.

For more information about this kaupapa check out our video in the QR link below.



Scan the code or visit [raukawa.info/moroki](https://raukawa.info/moroki)



Inter-organisation celebration at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre

# Kia Kaha Tonu Te Reo Māori!



Akarere Henry – CEO South Waikato Pacific Island Community Trust

I te marama o Hepetema, i whakanuia ai Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori ki te tari o Raukawa. Ko te aronga nui ia, ko te akiaki nei kia kaha te reo Māori i roto tonu i tō tātou hapori. I rere rā tā mātou karere ki tēnā tari, ki tēnā tari, kia kaha te whakatairangatia o tō tātou reo rangatira i taua wiki rā.

Ko te whakautu a ētehi, ko te kaupapa i hua ake i te Rāmere 15 o Hepetema. I kotahi atu ētehi o ngā tari o tō tātou hapori ki te whakanui, ki te whakamana i te reo Māori. I tū tētehi taumāhekeheke hei whakakotahi i te hunga tau hōu, me te hunga pakari ki te kōrero ki Tokoroa, ki te South Waikato Sport and Events Centre.



Community organisations celebrate Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

He ako kīwaha, he mahi whakaari, he tū ki te waiata, he hākari hoki ētehi o ngā kaupapa i kawea ai i taua rangi rā. Ko tētehi āhuatanga whakamīharo, ko te nohoanga mai o te hunga taketake o iwi kē. I rongo katoa mātou i te hiakai ki te whakapakari i tō tātou ake reo i roto tonu i te hapori, ahakoa nō whea, nō mea moutere, nō mea wāhi rānei. I whakatinanatia te whakaaro e mea ana, kia kaha te reo Māori, otirā, ngā reo taketake katoa, e puawai ai te wao nui o reo ki roto i tō tātou hapori, i tō tātou iwi. Heoi, kua noa iho i te wiki kotahi nei, engari mō ngā wiki, ngā rā, ā haere ake nei, kia kaha tonu te reo Māori, kia mau, kia ora, ā, kia pērā anō hoki ngā uri whakatupu.

# A Journey of Language Revitalisation



Mal McKenzie at Ōngāroto Marae

In celebration of Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, we spoke to Raukawa kaimahi Mal McKenzie, a true pioneer for reo revitalisation. She shares her journey rich in culture, language, and purpose.

Mal always knew she would receive her moko kauae. As a child, she would steal her mum's black eyeliner and look in the mirror, carefully sketching one on her chin. She would study a picture of her kuia, Ahumai Te Paerata, and try and replicate her kauae line by line.

Opportunities to get her moko kauae kept falling through, which meant the timing wasn't right – until this Matariki, when she received her moko kauae with four other cousins at Ōwairaka, Rāwhitiroa Marae. It was a beautiful and deeply intimate occasion, adorned with waiata and mōteatea while surrounded by whānau.

*"Through this experience, I felt the pain of my ancestors through the chisel. I felt the pain of the land wars, colonisation, influenza, abuse, murder and now there is not one single experience that can cause trauma to me,"* Mal said.

*"There is no self-doubt, no whakamā, no anxiety – there's no room in my physical being to accept those feelings anymore. Nothing equates to all of the inter-generational pain."*

Mal was born and raised in Whangārei. She grew up immersed in te reo Māori. She jokes that her mother only spoke it to her when she was angry, and that kapa haka was a big part of her life growing up as was noho marae.

She met her husband, Chris McKenzie, and when she fell hapū, her mum said to him, *"You can't raise my moko if you can't speak Māori."* So, he began his journey of studying and learning te reo.

The couple decided they would only speak Māori in their whare. There was no way Mal was going to see her son and future tamariki pay in time and finances, to learn something that was their birthright. But it was a double-edged sword in the 90s and required great sacrifice. They faced a lot of prejudice, especially within the community, education, and healthcare system. It was also hard for whānau and friends. Some were offended, some didn't understand why.

But this was the price they were willing to pay in order to ensure their son would speak Māori as a first language.

Eventually, they made their way back down to Te Pae o Raukawa, but over the last 27 years or so, they have also lived in Whangārei, Auckland and Wellington. They both received teaching degrees, had three more children, and opened their doors to many whānau and friends – with reo Māori as the common language in their whare.



Mal said at the start of their journey, around three people in her whānau could speak Māori – now she believes there are only around three out of 300 that cannot speak te reo. They also found and connected with a like-minded community who were committed to the reclamation of te reo Māori and working on revitalising the language.

Mal has helped develop community-based language initiatives, many courses, and programmes, she has helped hundreds – if not thousands – of students learn about their culture, who they are and where they come from.

Highlights include teaching the pilot programme Te Pūtaketanga o te Reo (known today as Te Ara Reo) at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, delivering a Young Leaders Programme and supporting our Raukawa Treaty settlement. Another highlight includes writing a Wellington-based community language initiative seeing over 3000 participants learning and speaking te reo Māori.

She continues to help her people today at Raukawa in her role as a Pou Kōkiri and loves her mahi. She added it is something that she and her husband have always done, yet now to have iwi backing and resources to aid uri aspirations to do the same is amazing.

*"I assist uri in the reclamation of cultural knowledge, it's a role of honour and much privilege as it connects me to my people and our rich heritage," she said.*



# Empowering Rangatahi on their Journey to Adulthood



Left: Chey Riki-Hamana and Aroha Riki-Hamana, guide rangatahi in their journey of transition.

Navigating the journey from adolescence to adulthood can be a challenging phase for many young people, particularly those who find themselves transitioning from state-care.

Raukawa, in collaboration with Oranga Tamariki, is dedicated to bridging this gap where many of our tamariki are vulnerable and empower them to safely and successfully transition into adulthood in a way that helps them to thrive as healthy young adults. We sat down with Aroha Riki-Hamana and Chey Riki-Hamana, both passionate and dedicated kaiārahi of our Transition to Adulthood service, as they shared their insights and experiences.

Aroha, with over 15 years of experience walking alongside whānau and rangatahi, along with Chey's life experience and knowledge, shared their commitment to helping rangatahi make a positive transition. Aroha emphasises that *"it's a pivotal phase in a person's life, profoundly influencing their future. By investing in their mana motuhake and support services during this period, we are investing in the wellbeing and success of future generations"*.

Our Transition to Adulthood service started in 2020 and caters to rangatahi aged 15 and above who have a current care and protection placement, residential youth justice placement (including remand), are on remand or have a prison sentence in the adult justice system before turning 18.

Our service is free and acts as a guiding light, offering continued assistance all the way up to 25 years old, with dedicated kaiārahi supporting and coordinating services, ensuring that individual needs and aspirations are at the forefront of their support plan.

Research shows that there are 600 eligible rangatahi who leave care and custody every year, but limited services and transition workers available to provide support.

Our service follows a structured and comprehensive process when a young person is referred by Oranga Tamariki. Our kaiārahi offer tailored support, including life skills training, health, legal, and emotional support, aligning resources to individual needs and circumstances.

Aroha and Chey go on to talk about how they help rangatahi they work with by addressing intergenerational trauma they carry while also strengthening their emotional wellbeing, food and financial security, housing stability and social support. Strengthening these areas often requires a multifaceted approach that builds self-worth, trust and resilience.

*"Collaboration is at the heart of our service's success" says Chey. Partnering with various organisations and agencies has been instrumental in providing holistic support along with their approach being deeply rooted in kaupapa Māori.*





The team shared a few examples of collaborative partnerships they have fostered over the years, such as the Tokoroa Rangatahi Transitional Housing project, which is a partnership with Twenty20 that provides stable housing for rangatahi as they aim to reduce the number of young people experiencing housing adversity. This is a special relationship we have built up overtime, with an understanding that referrals to the housing will only be accepted by Twenty20 from Raukawa.

Another is the Youth Hub, which is a dedicated space at Te Pūkenga in Tokoroa that paves the way to kick start one's educational journey, resulting in successful graduates in diverse fields.

The pre-employment programme is another partnership with WORKit and WACT which offers diverse opportunities for young people to access education, skills and support networks.

The team also shared kōrero of a resilient young person who had been in and out of care and faced potential homelessness once exiting out of state-care. The team was able to support him to enrol for full time study in an automotive engineering course, he is currently completing his second year. The team also supported him with a pre-employment initiative to attain his full driver's license and forklift license, along with financial education that led to him saving and being able to purchase his first vehicle. Lastly, in partnership with Twenty20, the team was able to

support this rangatahi to become the first tenant into the rangatahi housing initiative, providing not only stable housing but allowing him to build a proven rental history which is invaluable going into the future.

In November, this rangatahi has gone on to receive a prestigious Prime Minister's award in Wellington, along with a scholarship to launch his career. Over the course of three years, his journey was marked by perseverance, determination, and unwavering support from our team.

As Aroha and Chey affirm, the continued investment into nurturing the strengths and potential of these young individuals is crucial for their wellbeing and success. *"It's never too late"* says Chey. It's never too late to offer support to young people in transition, even if they have faced setbacks or challenges, with the right resources and assistance, they can still achieve their goals and thrive.

For more information about this service, please directly contact Oranga Tamariki on 0508 326 459.



The wāhine of Māmā Glow

# Māmā Glow

## *Te Pūtake o te Ora: A Whānau-Oriented Approach to Holistic Wellbeing*

Māmā Glow is about providing support and aroha for māmā throughout the rollercoaster ride of motherhood.

The idea came from Māmā Glow creator, Kiani Tuhua, from Parawera and Pōhara Marae, who had a baby around the same time as her sister. Together, they were going through "mum life" – leaning on each other for support when times were tough and when they felt alone. Kiani recognised how special it was to have her sister during these hard times and became aware that not all māmā had that support. Thus, began the idea of Māmā Glow – Te Pūtake o Te Ora.

With the help of the Raukawa Whānau Ora Whiria Ngā Hua funding, they were able to develop a four-week workshop framework to help eight māmā find their "māmā glow."

Whiria Ngā Hua funds kaupapa that responds to the needs and issues that are critical to whānau. The promotion of self-determination and community ownership empowers individuals and whānau to be active participants in shaping the services that affect their lives.

The workshops had a strong holistic viewpoint on māmā wellness. Kiani knew that a woman's wellbeing as a māmā and her self-development would have a direct positive impact on the wellbeing of her whānau.

The wāhine got to know one another through whakawhanaungatanga. They participated in various exercises, including visualisation and meditation, creating vision boards, encouraging healthy choices, movement and breathwork. They focused on looking at their whare as a sanctuary and setting goals and aspirations for the future.

They ended the workshops with a photography session, asking the māmā to "dress in what makes you feel your best." The photos captured the love, support, and growth of the māmā beautifully.

Many of the wāhine said the programme was a life-changing experience. A highlight for Kiani was seeing the transformations.

*"To see them share their aspirations in a safe space and gain a new perspective on life as a māmā, was a privilege to be a part of."*

She added, she is grateful for Raukawa Whānau Ora for giving her the opportunity to provide this experience to local māmā.

Applications for the current round of Whiria Ngā Hua Fund have now closed. For any questions on the funding, please contact 0800 RAUKAWA.

If you are interested in the Māmā Glow workshops, please email Kiani Tuhua on [kiani@mamaglow.co.nz](mailto:kiani@mamaglow.co.nz)





# Wellbeing Grant Helping Kuia and Koroua

Marie Whare is grateful for the wellbeing grants that make her life a little bit easier with the rising cost of living.

The 67-year-old from Ngātira Marae has used the grants for a range of wellbeing and healthcare support over the years, including – GP visits, prescription costs and most recently, a new pair of reading glasses.

*"I am grateful to Raukawa for the grants, as every little bit helps me,"* says Marie.

Marie was raised in Ngātira for most of her life, before moving to Auckland as a teenager. Her whakapapa to Ngātira is from Te Amopiu, her great-great-great grandfather. She adds that Tawhai Te Rore is her great-great-grandfather, and Rata Te Rore is her grandfather.

Marie returned to Ngātira to live in the 1970s, married in 1978 and had two children. If she's not at home, she's off visiting her children, sometimes weeks and months at a time, and spending time with her "hundreds" of mokopuna – including all of her nieces and nephews' children.

She first heard about the grants through her sister when she was in her 50s. Once she turned 60, her sister helped her complete the forms and process her applications. She said the form is easy enough to fill out. But it's great to have help from others who have done it before and know what to do.

*"Don't be afraid to ask for help. Ask whānau or ring Raukawa, and someone can guide you through the process if you have any questions,"* she adds.

*"Some of our people do get whakamā to ask for help. I often say, 'You can get this covered, you know.' and they ask how. There are lots of people that need to know this is available."*

The Kuia and Koroua Wellbeing Grants are where iwi members 60 years and over can apply for pūtea for wellbeing and healthcare-related support.

The grant supports eligible iwi members to alleviate the costs with eye, dental, hearing and podiatry treatments, GP visits, pharmacy prescriptions, and mobility equipment. Grants also extend to heating needs and ambulance fees.

For more information about our grants flip to page 22 or contact Haloa on 0800 RAUKAWA



Ngātira Marae, Ngātira

# Raukawa Family Start Whānau Day

*A Day of Fun and Connection*



Whānau Day at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre

In September, our whānau gathered at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre for an afternoon filled with laughter, games, and connection. This family event, organised by our Raukawa Family Start team, was a fantastic opportunity for whānau involved in our programme to come together and celebrate.

The star attraction of the day were undoubtedly the tamariki and mokopuna, who revelled in a world of play and exploration. The gymnasium came alive with the sounds of excitement as they jumped, bounced, swung, and climbed, making memories and new friends along the way. Meanwhile, parents and kaumātua watched on with smiles, some kaumātua made surprising connections with each other as they shared common stories of raising their mokopuna.

Raukawa kaimahi Newton Thompson shared his whakaaro on the successful event. *"It was heart-warming to witness so many whānau come together to share in the joy of the kaupapa. These moments are what strengthen our bonds and make us a stronger, a more connected community."*

We are immensely grateful to our partners who played a crucial role in making our day extra special. The contributions from our community helped create a day filled with shared moments of joy and manaakitanga that truly defined our kaupapa, we would like to thank Rongoa Tuku Iho, Helen Dahm from South Waikato Gym Sports Arena, Maariah Rikihana from Talking Matters Organisation and our own Well Child Tamariki Ora and Mental Health Services teams who all came to support the event.

The Family Start programme plays a vital role in supporting whānau, and the Whānau Day reflected its core values of unity and shared experiences.

If you want to learn more about the Raukawa Family Start service and how it can benefit your whānau, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can reach us on 0800 RAUKAWA or email [info@rauakawa.org.nz](mailto:info@rauakawa.org.nz). We look forward to connecting with you and helping your whānau to thrive



Left: Tyler Draper and Carla Puke deliver hauora support as part of our Tamariki Ora service



# Protecting our Wai

## Taking a Stand Against the Freshwater Gold Clam



Aiden Riki-Te Kanawa eDNA testing at Whakauru Stream

Today, we bring attention to a critical issue that affects our awa in particular the Waikato River – the freshwater Gold Clam (*Corbicula Fluminea*). This unassuming shellfish has invaded our waters, posing a significant threat to our environment.

As kaitiaki of our awa, we firmly stand against the presence of this invasive species. Though the Gold Clam may be small, its potential to inflict substantial harm on our waterways and their ecosystems is significant. We are unwavering in our commitment to safeguard our wai, our taonga, and the wellbeing of our future generations.

Raukawa kaimahi Jess Webber emphasises, *“This is not just an environmental issue; it’s a matter of protecting our cultural and natural heritage. The Gold Clam poses a clear and present danger to the Waikato River, and we must take action.”*

The Gold Clam has caused damage to waterways worldwide, known for its rapid reproduction rate. A single clam can produce up to 70,000 juveniles each year, causing blockages in water pipes and harming aquatic life.

Raukawa kaimahi Mihiwaatara Hohepa, provides insight into our ongoing efforts: *“We have joined forces with the Ministry of Primary Industries and other iwi for initial surveillance and removal exercise at Bob’s Landing. During this mission, we successfully removed 125kgs of clams from our river, a vital step in mitigating this environmental crisis.”*

Collaborating closely with the Waikato Regional Council, our dedicated team has actively engaged in eDNA training and testing reflecting our commitment to preserving the purity of our awa.

For now, the primary goal is to raise awareness. Jess encourages everyone to *“spread the word, educate your whānau and friends, and stay tuned for ways to contribute to our mission of preserving the purity of our awa.”* As kaitiaki of our awa, our united efforts can



Freshwater Gold Clams taken from Bob’s Landing

protect this taonga for generations. Together, let’s keep the waters of our awa clear and uncontaminated.

To ensure the Gold Clam doesn’t establish a permanent residence in our awa, it is imperative that we do not touch, consume, or remove these clams. Instead, if you spot any, please promptly report the location of your sightings, take a photo if possible and adhere to the *“Check, Clean, and Dry”* guidelines to prevent their spread.

You can make a big difference by calling Biosecurity New Zealand on their free phone number 0800809966 or by completing the online reporting form at [report.mpi.govt.nz](http://report.mpi.govt.nz).

More information on *“Check, Clean and Dry”* guidelines can be found on the following link



Scan the code or visit [rauikawa.info/3QGvwyQ](http://rauikawa.info/3QGvwyQ)





Raukawa Sport Grant recipient Dion Newth

# Raukawa Grants and Key Dates



## Education Grants

Depending on your studies, registered iwi members are able to apply for up to \$2000 in education related support.

Study Type	Period that this grant covers	Applications Open	Applications Close	Applications considered
Short course* Certificate, Diploma	01 Jul 2023 – 31 Jan 2024	01 Jul 2023	31 Jan 2024	28 Feb 2024
Bachelors and Masters	2024 Academic year	30 Nov 2023	31 Jan 2024	28 Feb 2024
Doctoral	2024 Academic year	30 Nov 2023	31 Jan 2024	28 Feb 2024

\* Short courses include Te Kura Reo o Raukawa and Te Uru Raukawa programmes offered by the Raukawa Charitable Trust

## Sports Grants

Registered iwi members can apply for a contribution towards costs incurred while competing as an amateur sportsperson at a local, regional or national representative level. It is open to amateur competitors such as athletes, coaches, managers and officials (umpire, referee, judge).

Type	Period that this grant covers	Applications Open	Applications Close	Applications considered
Sports grants round 1	01 Jun 2023 – 30 Nov 2023	01 Jun 2023	30 Nov 2023	Dec 2023
Sports grants round 2	01 Dec 2023 – 31 May 2024	01 Dec 2023	31 May 2024	Jun 2024

## Kuia and Koroua Wellbeing Grants

Registered kaumātua can apply for a contribution towards costs incurred or needing assistance with their wellbeing.

We have streamlined the process to make this service more accessible for our kaumātua. There is no longer a need to hold your receipts for this grant.

Type	Period that this grant covers	Applications Open	Applications Close	Applications considered
Kuia and Koroua Wellbeing grants	01 Jun 2023 – 31 May 2024	01 Jun 2023	31 May 2024	30 Jun 2024

To register as a member of Raukawa follow the link below. If you have any questions about our grants process call 0800 RAUKAWA and ask for our grants team.



Scan the code or visit [rauakawa.info/grants](https://rauakawa.info/grants)

# Governance Pānui

# Raukawa AGM 2023

**Save the Date, 16 December 2023**

Mōkai Marae – Tirohanga Road

9am Doors Open – 9:30am Hui Starts

For more information contact Kim on  
0800 RAUKAWA or [info@raukawa.org.nz](mailto:info@raukawa.org.nz)

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Raukawa